

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An article having a decorative coating provided thereon,
2 the article comprising:

3 a substrate having a surface; and

4 a material ~~comprising scandium~~ provided over at least a portion of the surface
5 to thereby form a decorative coating which exhibits a desired color;

6 wherein the material consists essentially of pure scandium or scandium alloyed
7 with one or more elements selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon,
8 refractory metals, rare earth metals in the lanthanide series of the periodic table, transition
9 metals, and combinations thereof.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, wherein the material ~~comprising~~
2 ~~scandium further~~ comprises nitrogen.

1 3. (Currently Amended) An article having a decorative coating provided thereon,
2 the article comprising:

3 a substrate having a surface; and

4 a material comprising scandium provided over at least a portion of the surface
5 to thereby form a decorative coating which exhibits a desired color;

6 The article of claim 1, wherein the material comprising scandium further
7 comprises at least one of carbon and oxygen.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, wherein the material ~~comprising~~
2 ~~scandium~~ comprises at least 10 atomic percent scandium.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, wherein the material ~~comprising~~
2 ~~scandium further~~ includes at least one metal selected from the group consisting of zirconium,
3 titanium, yttrium, niobium, hafnium, molybdenum, chromium, and aluminum.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 5, wherein the material comprising
2 ~~scandium~~ includes nitrogen.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 5, wherein the material comprising
2 ~~scandium~~ includes at least one of carbon and oxygen.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, wherein the material comprising
2 ~~scandium~~ includes at least one metal selected from the group consisting of lanthanum,
3 neodymium, praseodymium, samarium, dysprosium, erbium, ytterbium, and cerium.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 8, wherein the material comprising
2 ~~scandium~~ includes nitrogen.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 8, wherein the material comprising
2 ~~scandium~~ includes at least one of carbon and oxygen.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, wherein the material comprising
2 ~~scandium~~ is configured to provide at least one of abrasion resistance, scratch resistance,
3 tarnish resistance, and corrosion resistance for the substrate.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1, wherein the material comprising
2 ~~scandium~~ has a thickness effective to provide the desired color.

1 13. (Original) The article of claim 12, wherein the thickness is greater than
2 approximately 50 nm.

1 14. (Original) The article of claim 13, wherein the thickness is greater than
2 approximately 100 nm.

1 15. (Currently Amended) ~~The article of claim 1,~~ An article having a decorative
2 coating provided thereon, the article comprising:

3 a substrate having a surface; and

4 a material comprising scandium provided over at least a portion of the surface
5 to thereby form a decorative coating which exhibits a desired color;

6 further comprising a strike layer provided intermediate the substrate and the
7 material comprising scandium.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The article of claim [[1]] 15, wherein the strike layer
2 comprises scandium.

1 17. (Currently Amended) An article having a decorative coating comprising:
2 a substrate having a surface; and

3 a compound provided over at least a portion of the surface, the compound
4 ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of scandium and one or more materials selected from the
5 group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, zirconium, titanium, yttrium, niobium,
6 hafnium, molybdenum, chromium, aluminum, lanthanum, neodymium, praseodymium,
7 samarium, dysprosium, erbium, ytterbium, and cerium.

1 18. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the compound comprises scandium
2 nitride.

1 19. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the compound further comprises at
2 least one of carbon and oxygen.

1 20. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the compound includes at least one
2 metal selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium, yttrium, niobium, hafnium,
3 molybdenum, chromium, aluminum, lanthanum, neodymium, praseodymium, samarium,
4 dysprosium, erbium, ytterbium, and cerium.

1 21. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the compound includes nitrogen.

1 22. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the compound includes at least one
2 of carbon and oxygen.

1 23. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the compound is configured to
2 provide at least one of abrasion resistance, scratch resistance, tarnish resistance, and corrosion
3 resistance for the substrate.

1 24. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the compound has a thickness
2 greater than approximately 50 nm.

1 25. (Original) The article of claim 24, wherein the compound has a thickness
2 greater than approximately 100 nm.

1 26. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:
2 a substrate having a surface; and
3 a compound ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of scandium and at least one
4 additional element deposited on the surface, the compound configured to provide a decorative
5 color coating for the article;

6 wherein the at least one additional element is selected from the group
7 consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, ~~and a metal~~ zirconium, titanium, yttrium, niobium,
8 hafnium, molybdenum, chromium, aluminum, lanthanum, neodymium, praseodymium,
9 samarium, dysprosium, erbium, ytterbium, and cerium;

10 wherein the color provided by the compound may be adjusted by changing the
11 amount of the at least one additional element in the compound.

1 27. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the compound includes
2 at least two ~~additional~~ elements selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen,
3 carbon, and a metal.

1 28. (Original) The article of claim 27, wherein the color provided by the
2 compound may be adjusted by changing the relative amounts of the at least two additional
3 elements.

1 29. (Original) The article of claim 26, wherein the compound comprises scandium
2 and nitrogen.

1 30. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the compound further comprises at
2 least one of oxygen, carbon, and a metal.

1 31. (Original) The article of claim 26, wherein the compound comprises a metal
2 selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium, yttrium, niobium, hafnium,
3 molybdenum, chromium, and aluminum.

1 32. (Original) The article of claim 31, wherein the compound further comprises
2 nitrogen.

1 33. (Original) The article of claim 26, wherein the compound comprises a metal
2 selected from the group consisting of lanthanum, neodymium, praseodymium, samarium,
3 dysprosium, erbium, ytterbium, and cerium.

1 34. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the compound further comprises
2 nitrogen.

1 35. (Original) The article of claim 26, further comprising a strike layer provided
2 intermediate the compound and the substrate, the strike layer comprising scandium.

1 36. (Original) The article of claim 26, wherein the compound is deposited at a
2 thickness greater than 50 nm.